

The Bethel Courier.

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WINTER 1987

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1987 ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN EXCEEDS GOAL

Much credit is due the 1987 Endowment Campaign Committee (Howard W. Cole, Chairman, Barbara D. Brown, John B. Head, Alden T. Kennett and E. Louise Lincoln) for successfully guiding the effort to increase the Society's endowment. The 1987 goal of \$7500 was surpassed and a record number of donors (329) participated. Deepest gratitude is extended to all of the following who made this success possible:

Barbara Rich Adams, Lancaster, NH, in memory of Eva Bean; Mary Ann Ashcraft Alspach, Westminster, MD; Olive & James Anderson, Newry, in memory of George Lehrian; Ernest & Alberta Angevine, Bethel; Bert & Mary Appleberry, Nacogdoches, TX, in honor of Mr. & Mrs. Laban & Sunday River Inn Owners; J. Maynard & Carolyn Austin, Bennington, VT, in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Henry P. Austin; Elizabeth W. Baker, Rumford Point, in memory of Mary Carroll; Arthur & Ruth Barker, Stafford Springs, CT; Bradley & Judith Barker, Bethel, in memory of Frank P. Chapman; Jean Barker, Delray Beach, FL; Laurence A. Bartlett, Nashua, NH, in memory of Martha S. Bartlett; O. J. Bartlett, Berlin, NH; Urban & Neda Bartlett, Bethel; Bessie M. Bennett, West Peru, in memory of Lester L. Bennett; Donald & Katherine Bennett, Bethel; Randall H. Bennett, in memory of Lester L. Bennett & Edward H. Hastings; Harriet N. Bensen, Long Branch, NJ; Bethel Furniture Stock, Inc., Bethel; Robert & Mary Billings, Bryant Pond, in memory of Edward H. Hastings; Charles & Patricia Blake, Bethel; Kenneth & Gwyneth Bohr, Bethel; Benjamin & Lillian Bomhoff, Bangor, PA, in memory of Lilla T. Morgan & Ethel Bisbee; Florine Bowden, Esmond, RI, in memory of Ernest & Ethel Bisbee & Alice Ballard; Lanny & Mary Brent, Springfield, MO, in memory of Gertrude Locke; Dorothy F. Brinck, South Paris, in memory of Perley & Elizabeth Flanders; Alfred & Faith Brown, Bethel, in memory of "Ned" Hastings; James & Beatrice Brown, Bethel, in memory of Isaac A. Cushman; Donald & Arlene Brown, Bethel, in memory of "Ned" Hastings; Julia B. Brown, Bethel, in memory of "Ned" Hastings & Mary Carroll; Marie Brown, Bethel; Maxine C. Brown, Bethel, in memory of Vernon Brown; Richard & Doris Brown, Bethel, in memory of Doris O. Lord; Grace Buck, Bethel; Laurence Burleigh & Margaret Carolan, Casco, in memory of Mary Carroll; Alan & Judy Burgess, Trevett; Dr. Richard & Catherine Bush, Belmont, MA; Guy & Nancy Butler, Millinocket, in memory of Kimball Ames & Edward H. Hastings; Donald & Mary Calderwood, Mesa, AZ; Neil E. Carolan, Casco, in memory of Mary Carroll; Edna J. Carroll, New Brunswick, Canada, in memory of Mary Carroll; Lee & Judith Carroll, Gorham, NH, in memory of Mary Carroll; Elizabeth Carson Carter, West Bethel, in memory of Edward "Ned" Hastings; Carlton & Mary Champe, Rumford Center, in memory of Thalia Goddard Folsom & "Ned" Hastings; Lynda & Steve Chandler, Bethel; Albert & Suzanne Chapman, Harbert, MI, in memory of John Frye Chapman; Daphne A. Chapman, Peabody,

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Leslie E. Davis, Log Scaler, ca. 1910.

Photo courtesy of Phyllis Davis Dock.

REFLECTIONS ON A HALF CENTURY (continued from Fall 1987 Issue)

by Leslie E. Davis

Hanover had two schoolhouses, the upper district school, which burned about twenty years ago, and the village school which still stands.

There never was a church inside the town limits but there were two churches at Rumford Point, which is only about one mile from Hanover village, and there was a Union Church at Newry Corner, which stood only a few yards from the town line between Hanover and Newry. There were services in these churches only during the summer months.

The rest of the town's area was composed of individual farms of eighty to one hundred and fifty acres each.

Such was the town in which I lived from May 1902 until I left home in July 1912 to make my own way.

From 1902 until 1906, Irving, Gladys, and I went through the usual stages of growing up. We went to school from September until the following June and through the summer we had to help with the farm work.

In the spring we helped with the syrup making and cut the year's supply of wood. We had a lot of fun also. The three of us pooled our savings and bought an old second-hand chapel organ so we could take music lessons. We learned to swim in the Androscoggin River. We hung Maybaskets in May all over the neighborhood. We had our first automobile ride in a little

(continued on page 4)

MA, in memory of Philip Sheridan Chapman, Jr.; Franklin S. & Rosalind R. Chapman, Bethel, in memory of "Ned" Hastings; Donald M. Christie, Jr., Poughkeepsie, NY; William P. III & Marta Clough, Bethel; Howard & Virginia Cole, Bethel; Mary Lou Cole, Norwood, MA, in memory of Ernestine Jackson; Eleanor & Wilfred Conary, Bethel, in memory of Howard Brown; Rupert & Eva Conroy, Auburn, in memory of Sylvia Conroy; Clayton & Lola Crockett, Bethel; James & Joanne Crounse, Danvers, MA, in memory of Ernestine Jackson; Richard & Rita Davis, Bethel; Louise S. Day, Biddeford; Roland E. DeCoteau, South Paris; Ernest & Denise Demers, Gorham, NH, in memory of Mary Carroll; Richard & Jean Doherty, Rumford; Dana & Barbara Douglass, Jr., Bethel; Elmira W. Doyen, Bethel; Richard & Carole Duplessis, Bethel; Hugh & Mariann Durgin, Bethel, in memory of John Grover; Dale M. Dyke, Rumford; Rodney & Katheryn Eames, Cape Elizabeth, in memory of Mary Carroll; Howard & Alice Fales, West Redding, CT; Ray Fales, Braintree, MA, in memory of Alice Kimball Fales; Walter & Phyllis Fales, Royal Oak, MI, in memory of Alice M. Fales; Edna E. Fallon, Bethel; Norman & Barbara Ferguson, Hanover; Donald & Joanne Fiske, Gorham, NH, in memory of Mary Carroll; Leona B. Flint, Bethel, in memory of Mary Carroll & Edward Hastings; Charles & Marjorie Fobes, Portland; Dorothy H. Fortier, Falmouth, in memory of V. G. Hutchins; Myra M. Foster, Bethel, in memory of David S. Foster; George & Virginia Gamble, Hanover, NH, in memory of George M. Gamble, Sr.; Guy & Madeleine Gibbs, Bethel, in memory of Jerrold Gibbs; Arthur & Ruth Gilbert, West Bethel; Shirley & Marilyn Gilbert, West Bethel; Goodwins Inc., Norway; Celia Gorman, Bethel; Gould Academy, Bethel, in memory of Mary Carroll; Thomas & Marilyn Gould, Braintree, MA, in memory of Edward Hastings; Will & Marguerite Graham, Bethel; Paul & Patricia Gray, South Windsor, CT, in honor of Mildred E. Tyler; Jean H. Grover, Bethel, in memory of Lester Bennett; Agnes Haines, Bethel, in memory of Lester Bennett & "Ned" Hastings; Ralph & Marion Hall, Bethel; Mildred C. Hanscom, South Portland; Frances S. Harding, Bryant Pond, in memory of "Ned Hastings"; Dr. John & Cathy Hart, Bangor, in memory of Mary Bessey Kenney Stanley; Colwyn & Judith Haskell, Bethel; Euphemia Hastings, Bethel, in memory of Lester Bennett; Robert & Florence Hastings, Bethel, in memory of "Ned" Hastings; Florence B. Hathaway, Needham, MA; George & Arlene Hayes, Bryant Pond, in memory of William Kannegieser; John & Fumiko Head, Bethel, in memory of Col. & Mrs. Wilson Potter, Jr.; Emeline V. Heath, Bethel, in memory of Archie & Mabel Heath; Richard & Jane Hosterman, West Bethel, in memory of Edward Hastings; John P. Howe, Rockport, MA; Rodney & Geraldine Howe, Bethel, in memory of "Ned" Hastings & Lester Bennett; Stanley R. Howe, Bethel, in memory of Mary Carroll, Edward Hastings, Lester Bennett & Ernestine Jackson; Lee & Virginia Hutchins, Bethel; Mildred Jackson,

Bethel, in memory of Lester Bennett; Lelia S. Fogg, Amesbury, MA, in memory of Ernestine Jackson; Robert or Lois Jackson, Amesbury, MA, in memory of Ernestine Jackson; Charlotte K. Johnson, Westford, MA, in memory of Albert L. Johnson; Paul Judkins & Helen Judkins, Dixfield, in memory of Eva Bean; Paul & Jean Kailey, Bethel; Royden & Alice Keddy, Gorham; Kendal Insurance, Inc., Bethel; Ronald & Marguerite Kendall, Bethel, in memory of Mary Carroll; Earlon & Mary Keniston, Bethel, in memory of George Bryant; Alden & Mabel Kennett, Bethel; Dr. Werner & Irene Kohlmeyer, Bethel; Herbert & Ruth Kittredge, Bethel, in memory of Laurier Kittredge; James D. Konkel, Findlay, OH; Gladys Krebsner, Essex Junction, VT, in memory of Mary Carroll; Harry & Barbara Kuzyk, Bethel, in memory of Mary Carroll; Eugene & Katherine LaFond, San Diego, CA, in memory of Dr. Norman J. Gehring; Rev. Clifford & Elizabeth Laws, Kittery Point; Daisy M. LeClair, Bethel, in memory of Syll LeClair; Harold & Edith Lawrence, Portland; E. Louise Lincoln, Bethel; Arlene B. Lowell, Bethel, in memory of Lloyd B. Lowell; Emeline Lufkin, Canaan, NH; Rodney Lynch, Bethel; Clarence & Mary Ann Mansfield, Danvers, MA, in memory of Ernestine Jackson; Pearlina McMillin, Bethel, in memory of Mary Carroll; Marguerite H. McNally, Hampden, in memory of Fred B. & Gladys B. Hall; Nancy H. Mercer, Bethel, in honor of Agnes Haines; Marilyn R. Mollicone, Augusta, in memory of Bernice H. Noyes; James & Josephine Monahan, Bethel, in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Jack McMillin; Patricia Moon, Denver, CO, in honor of Nathan Rice Twitchell; Grace P. Morrill, Bethel; Helen Morton, Newry; Herbert H. Morton, III, Andover, MA; Alice Mundt, Worcester, MA; David & Nancy Murphy, Bethel; Norman & Jean Ness, Jr., Bangor; Hazel H. Newell, Locke Mills; David W. & Jeanette E. Nichols, Milan, NH, in memory of Mary Carroll; Dorothea P. Nielsen, Manchester, CT, in honor of Charles & Carol Nielson Family of Bethel; George Noll, Bethel, in memory of Marjorie MacArthur Noll; John & Yvonne Nowlin, Sund River, in memory of Laura B. Bennett; Alice Mundt, Worcester, MA; Marvin & Trijnt Ouwinga, Bethel, in memory of Edward Hastings; Earlon & Mary Paine, Bethel; John & Caroline Palmer, East Stoneham; Harry & Eleanor Parsons, Bethel; Ethel L. Partiss, Wolfeboro, NH, in memory of Ernestine Jackson; Louis & Florice Paul, West Bethel, in memory of Hazel G. Wheeler; Dr. John & Jane Payne, Baltimore, MD, in honor of Miss Evaline Kimball; C. D. & Coralyn Philbrook, Scotia, NY, in memory of Ernestine Jackson; Archibald & Persis Post, Bethel; Dr. Majic & Jeanette Potsaid, Hanover, MA; Anthony & Eleanor Pugliese, Bethel; Marian K. Rich, Bethel; John V. & Anne K. Richardson, Jr., Athol, MA, in memory of John Hastings & Rebekah Kelley; Col. Arthur & Elinor Ritchings, Petersburg, VA, in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Warren Hastings; Beatrice R. Ritter, Torrington, CT; Harold & Monique Rolfe, Bethel, in memory of "Ned" Hastings; John K. Russell, Trumbull, CT, in memory of Mary Carroll; Wallace & Frances Saunders, Bethel; Margaret M. Sawyer, Waterford, in memory of Bill A. Sawyer; Dorothy G. Schmidt, Augusta, in memory of Hazel G. Wheeler; Glenn E. & Marion Swan, Mexico, in memory of Charles Swan; David & Erma Thompson, Bethel, in memory of Dawn Ellen Thompson; Stephen Trent Seames, Locke Mills, in memory of Edward H. Hastings; Dr. Charles & Edith Seashore, Washington, DC; Roy Silver, Bethel, in memory of Carrie B. Grover; Ruth Silver, Bethel, in memory of Carrie B. Grover; Roxanne T. Sly, Brooklin; Leslie & Elizabeth Smith, Bethel; Charles & Bernice Stevens, Gray; Clyde & Bertha Stevens, Bethel; Ranald & Sarah Stevens, Bethel, in memory of "Ned" Hastings; Dr. Robert Joanne Stewart, Kalamazoo, MI, in memory of William Welcome Peabody; Dexter & Janet Stowell, Bethel, in memory of "Ned" Hastings; George & Harriett Stowell, Bethel, in memory of Grover Brooks & Kimball Ames; Glenn E. Swan, Mexico, in memory of Charles Swan; Douglas M. Sweatt, Center Conway,

EDITOR'S CORNER

With this issue, we are able to include a more extensive selection of the memoirs of Bethel businessman L.E. Davis, written in the 1950s. Several readers have expressed great enthusiasm for its inclusion in the COURIER and with this issue we are again able to include a photograph to accompany the text. The memoir is a long one, recalling numerous details which would have been lost forever but for this remarkable document. We will include what we can in forthcoming issues along with photographs whenever appropriate and possible.

SRH

NH; Robert T. Tewksbury, Kerrville, TX, in memory of Harold & Evelyn Bennett; Hope B. Tibbetts, Bethel, in memory of Selma Chapman; Margaret Joy Tibbetts, Bethel, in memory of Dr. & Mrs. Raymond R. Tibbetts & "Ned" Hastings; Peter & Luana Tommila, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA; Donald & Muriel Thompson, West Springfield, MA, in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Arthur C. Brinck; U.M.W. Methodist Church, Bethel, in memory of Mary Carroll; Frances Usenik, Washington, DC, in honor of Matthew Usenik; Edmond & Sudie Vachon, Bethel; Janet & Frank Vogt, Bethel, in memory of "Ned" Hastings; Madge Regan Vogt, South Paris, in memory of Mary Carroll; Margaret S. Ward, King of Prussia, PA, in memory of The William L. Farwell Family; Erland & Margaret Wentzell, West Baldwin, in memory of Stanley H. Wentzell; Millie B. Wentzell, Bethel; Barbara L. Wheeler, Bethel, in memory of Mary Carroll; Maxwell & Elizabeth Whiteman, Elkins Park, PA; Claus & Joan T. Wiese, Bethel; Frederic O. & Sue Wight, Newry; Paula M. Wight, Cumberland; Ruth Wight, Bethel; Willard & Sylvia Wight, Newry, in memory of Carrie M. Wight; Dennis & Rita Wilson, Bethel; Roman & Elizabeth Woronzoff, Bethel; Edna M. York, Bethel in memory of Robert S. York; Robert & Jeanette York, Orrs Island; Archie & Jane Young, Bethel, in memory of Pauline Chapin; Martha B. Von Zintl, Bethel, in memory of Mary Carroll.

MEMBER PROFILE



Helen A. Morton

Born in Auburn, Patron Member Helen A. Morton graduated from Edward Little High School and Farmington State Teachers College. She taught in the Auburn elementary schools for six years before her marriage to Herbert Morton, Jr. of Newry in 1939. Since that time she has been a resident of Newry and substituted in the Bethel schools from 1944 to 1970. Mrs. Morton studied art with Professor Lajos Matolcsy in South Paris intermittently for sixteen years and is accomplished in all media. She has exhibited her work in banks, libraries, hospitals, hotels, shops and sidewalk shows. She has also been accepted in juried shows. A member of the Western Maine Art Group and Maine Women in the Arts, she is active in the West Parish Congregational Church, Purity Chapter, O.E.S., and the Newry Mother's Club. The mother of two children and grandmother of three, she has been widowed since 1964. Mrs. Morton chaired the Society's Program Committee for many years, served on the Endowment Campaign Committee and currently serves as a member of the Art Committee. She served on the Society's Board of Trustees from 1980-1983 and has been a faithful museum guide since 1975. For many years, she has organized Society art shows, generously contributed to the endowment and been an eager volunteer in numerous Society activities.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The monthly meetings of the Bethel Historical Society this season have been especially stimulating and attendance has been good. The 1987 "Christmas with the Masons" was particularly popular. The excellent publicity which the Society has received continues to generate more and more interest. We are especially grateful for the way in which this interest has resulted in ever-increasing membership and in a record number of donors for the annual endowment campaign.

These contributions reflect both special generosity on the part of some and the continuous broad-based support of others. These donations support many of the Society's activities and are deeply appreciated.

Among other items, the Society continued to collect genealogical records during the past year. These are used frequently and are among the most valuable resources offered to the public by the Society.

Have a good winter.

Marvin Ouwinga

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROGRAM 1988

January 7, Annual "So You Think You Know Bethel"; February 4, Annual Historical Film Festival; March 3, Collector's Night; April 7, "Highlights of Bethel's Elm, Summer and Winter Streets"; May 5, Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., Director, Maine Historic Preservation Commission, "Thomas Holt of Bethel: Maine Architect"; June 2, Bicentennial Dancers, "Dances of 1790-1890"; July 7, Annual Picnic, East Bethel Church, Stanley R. Howe, Director, Bethel Historical Society, "The Columbian Club of Bethel"; August 4, Jane Radcliffe, Curator of Domestic and Fine Arts, Maine State Museum, "Early 19th Century Wall Decorators"; September 1, 23rd Annual Meeting, speaker: Dr. Joseph Conforti, Director, New England Studies Program, University of Southern Maine; October 6, "Annual What's It" Night, "History of Bethel's Clark Street"; November 3, Dr. Edwin Churchill, Head Curator, Maine State Museum, "Painted Furniture"; December 1, Annual "Christmas with the Masons." The annual picnic in July and the pot luck supper preceding the annual meeting will begin at 6:30 P.M. All monthly meetings begin at 7:30 P.M. and will be held at the Society's Broad Street headquarters, the Dr. Moses Mason House, unless otherwise specified.

SOCIETY PRODUCES GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH SHEET

The Society has produced a flyer describing its genealogical resources. Compiled by Curator of Collections Randall H. Bennett, this research aide outlines basic sources and steps for conducting research at the Society's headquarters, the Dr. Moses Mason House. Single copies will be mailed to Society members and friends who send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217.

SOCIETY OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

Marvin Ouwinga, President; Jane Hosterman, Vice President; Charles F. Raymond, Secretary and Clerk of the Trustees; Mary C. Keniston, Treasurer; Trustees: Donald S. Brown, Lynda H. Chandler, Alden T. Kennett, Margaret Joy Tibbetts, Sylvia Wight

SOCIETY SALES DEPARTMENT

The Society maintains a selection of modestly priced gifts and historical publications. These may be ordered at the prices listed below. Maine residents should include 5% sales tax. Orders under \$10 should include \$1 for postage and handling; those over \$10 but under \$20 should include \$2 and all those over \$20 should include \$3 for postage and handling.

Moses Mason House Tile \$3.50

Stationery (package of ten sheets and ten envelopes)

\$2 each

Moses Mason House

Summer House

Bethel Railroad Station

Bethel Covered Bridge

Booklets

"Bethel's Broad Street" 75¢

"The Family Farm" 75¢

"Made in Bethel" 75¢

"Dr. Moses Mason and His House" \$1

"Molly Ockett" \$2

Maps and Atlases

1880 Map of Bethel Hill \$2

1880 Map of Entire Town (Bethel) \$2

1878 Bird's Eye View of Bethel Hill \$1

1858 Atlas of Oxford County \$6.50

Wood Tote (canvas) (Moses Mason Museum logo) \$12.50

Tote Bag (Moses Mason Museum logo) \$7.50

Placemats, 4 Season (set of four) \$7.50

Special Editions

Bethel Citizen (1974) \$1

Indian Raid '81 \$1

Books

William B. Lapham, HISTORY OF WOODSTOCK, MAINE \$19.95

B.G. Willey, INCIDENTS IN WHITE MOUNTAIN HISTORY \$25

Maxim & Lapham, HISTORY OF PARIS \$55

Holt, GRAND TRUNK LINES OF NEW ENGLAND \$24.95

D. B. Wight, WILD RIVER WILDERNESS \$4

Francis Parkman, THE GOULD ACADEMY STORY \$7.50

Ruth Crosby, FROM AN OLD LEATHER TRUNK \$3.50

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY COOKBOOK \$5

Thomas Hubka, BIG HOUSE, LITTLE HOUSE, BACK HOUSE BARN: THE CONNECTED FARM BUILDINGS OF NEW ENGLAND Paper \$19.95. Cloth \$29.95

William B. Lapham, HISTORY OF NORWAY, MAINE \$55

M.F. King, ANNALS OF OXFORD \$35

Jean Lipman, RUFUS PORTER REDISCOVERED \$14.95

A TRUTHFUL LIKENESS: CHESTER HARDING AND HIS PORTRAITS \$25

Paula Wight, NEWRY PROFILES \$5

Eva Bean, EAST BETHEL ROAD \$50

R. H. Bennett, OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE \$18

William B. Lapham, HISTORY OF BETHEL, 1768-1890 \$45

F.W. Kilbourne, CHRONICLES OF THE WHITE MOUNTAINS \$20

T-Shirts

Moses Mason Museum (Adult) (S,M,L,XL) \$7

Moses Mason Museum (Child's) (4-6-8-10-12-14) \$6

Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Adult) (S,M,L,XL) \$7

Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Child's) (4-6-8-10-12-14) \$6

Post Cards: Dr. Mason, Agnes Mason,

Moses Mason House 10¢ ea.

Bethel Historical Society Calendar, 1988 \$6

Members of the Bethel Historical Society are entitled to a 10% discount for purchases totaling \$10 or more. Please send orders to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217. They will be sent by return mail.

(L. E. Davis Memoirs, continued from page 1)

old Stanley Steamer. Irving and I rode to Hanover village two miles from our house and walked back and would probably do it again.

Irving and I got so used to girls in schools at Hanover that we sometimes took them to socials and parties and got to really enjoy their company.

During these years, telephones began to get in more general use and one or two persons in town bought automobiles. In 1902 and for a few years after that, the usual wages for a day's labor for a man was \$1.25 for ten hours work.

The first money I ever earned was for helping harvest beans, pulling them by hand and stacking them, for which I was paid 35¢ for a ten hour day. In haying time, Irving and I worked for the neighbors after our own haying was done and we got 50¢ a day for haying as it was considered harder work. Boys of this period usually wore short pants and long stockings, until about the age of thirteen or fourteen when they had their first pair of long pants.

At the close of the school in June 1906 when Irving was fifteen and I was thirteen years old, the teacher informed our parents that we had completed all the school work that the town schools were expected to give us, and if they planned for us to go to high school, that she believed we could pass the required examination.

We didn't expect to go and didn't plan on it, but when fall came and the other young folks in our age group went on to higher education at Gould's Academy in Bethel, we also wanted to go, so Father decided that if we would help him get the crops harvested and if a place could be found around Bethel where we could earn our board that we could go for part of the year at least.

We got the crops harvested the latter part of October and Father found a place for each of us to do farm chores for our board about two miles out of Bethel Village, and we started at Gould's Academy.

School had been in session nearly seven weeks by this time, so we had to make up that work, but we managed it.

Our school attendance followed about that same pattern for the next three or four years and we averaged about two terms a year out of the three that school was in session, working at different places for our board and making up the school work that we missed.

In all, I lived in eight different places during the time I attended Gould's. (Editor's note: Davis graduated in 1911 as Salutatorian of his class.)

During the fall of 1907 and winter of 1908, there was one girl in school that I liked the looks of, and finally managed to get acquainted with, and during the years that followed I met a lot of other nice girls, but never one who interested me as much as this girl (Marie Swan). After some years of persistence on my part, and some effort to overcome the opposition of her mother, I finally succeeded in changing her last name to Davis, but that event is a little ahead of my present story and I will pick it up later.

During all the years I attended Gould's, Irving and I were in the same class as we had been in town school; while there was this difference in our interests at high school level, I do not recall that he ever did anything in athletics, but he had considerable musical ability; his spare time was divided between this interest and a pretty active social association with his fellow students, chiefly girl students.

I have always enjoyed music very much but have very little ability to produce it. I always liked high school athletics and played both basketball and baseball in all the time that I could manage to get free from working to earn my board. I never got good enough at these sports to make the first teams but really enjoyed playing and became captain of both the second string baseball and basketball teams during my senior year at Gould's.

During my years at Gould's, basketball and baseball were the only two sports that were sponsored by the school, as athletics of those days had to be self-supporting and there was no money for coaching staff. The team captains did what coaching the team got and the play in both practice and games with other schools got pretty rough at times. We had no athletic field and used the center of the oval race track at the Bethel Fairgrounds for baseball and the gymnasium was the third floor of the old wooden school building which was considerably smaller than a standard basketball court and was lighted by kerosene lamps.

In the fall of 1909, Irving and I started the fall term boarding at Chester Wheeler's on Church Street. (This is the house opposite the Gould Field House.) Near the end of the term, Father decided that he wouldn't be able to pay board for both of us for the balance of the year so Irving managed to get a place where he could work most of his board and I decided to leave school and work until I could earn enough to finish and graduate from the Academy without having to keep breaking up my schooling.

I was able to get a job for the American Realty Company as log scaler on the land flowage which was being cut over in preparation for a storage reservoir lake on the Magalloway River above Wilson's Mills, Maine (now site of Aziscoos Dam).

I got this job under Silas Peaslee of Upton, who was supervisor of scaling operations for the American Realty Company, on the recommendation of my uncle, Ernest Farrar, followed by an interview with Mr. Peaslee. I have thought a great many times since that Uncle Ernest's recommendation must have been pretty convincing as I was only sixteen years old at the time of hiring for this job. I actually began work when I was seventeen due to the fact that I had an accident on the way home from Bethel after making a goodbye call on Marie.

This was in late November and I drove to Bethel with horse and sleigh as we already had snow. On the way home I was passing what was then the Baker Thurston house in Mayville (now Rostay), when the horse became frightened and ran away, going sharply out of the road behind some trees beside the road, so sharply in fact, that it threw me out of the sleigh against one of the trees, injuring the cords on the back of my knee joint. I managed to get into the Thurston house but the horse kept on running for home.

We were able to get word to my father at Hanover and he came after me and the horse, which went about five miles before being stopped.

I was not able to get about again for about five weeks, so Irving took my place on the scaling job until I was able to walk again. I am not sure whether Irving went back to school again when I took the scaling job over or not, but I believe that he did go during the winter term which ended in March of 1910.

I enjoyed the scaling job very much and stayed in the lumber camp of Sturtevant and McDonald on the Bog Brook job from the very last day of December 1909 until about April 1910 when the job was completed. I remember that I drew only five dollars of the wages due me during that time so that what I had coming at the close of the job was real important money.

In 1910, log scalers were paid \$1.60 per day and board,

choppers and landing men got \$26 per month plus board, while teamsters and head fallers got \$30 and \$32 per month plus board.

After getting out of the woods in the spring of 1910, I helped Father finish up the syrup making, then went back to school for the balance of the spring term. I boarded at the dormitory, old Holden Hall.

Irving decided to go out on his own as he was now twenty years old, so he worked for awhile for Chester Wheeler who ran the Bethel Creamery, which was located where the Gould Academy Field House now stands, then later he went to Auburn to work for the Turner Center Creamery Co. From Auburn, Irving went to Portsmouth, N.H. to work for Uncle True Davis in the wholesale produce, fruit and grocery business; I believe he started work there in the summer of 1911. He met and married Mabel Herrick in the summer of 1912, and they lived in a house in what was known as the "Christian Shore" section of Portsmouth until he died of influenza in October 1918. He also worked for Uncle True as long as he lived. Sherman, his only child, was born May 7, 1913 at Portsmouth.



Society President Marvin Ouwinga (right) stands beside the Historic Preservation Award with Society Director Stanley R. Howe at the November monthly meeting. The Award was presented to the Society by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission for its "diligent and dedicated service in support of the preservation of Maine's historic and cultural heritage." Photo courtesy of Donald S. Brown.

BOOK REVIEW

Saga of Two North American Families: Andrews-Titus by John Alva Titus. (Baltimore, Maryland: Gateway Press, Inc., 1987, Pp. 274. Cloth. \$37.) Order from the author, P.O. Box 52, South Paris, ME 04281.

The appearance of a published genealogy documenting two families with long-established roots in Oxford County is worthy of note to Bethel Historical Society members and friends; Bethel area residents well-acquainted with those carrying the Andrews or Titus name in western Maine will find much of importance in this nearly 300-page work. For researchers with an interest in discovering possible connections to one or both families presented here, however, this book, because of its unorthodox arrangement and lack of an index, may prove to be unnecessarily confusing.

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Based on the paternal ancestry of the compiler's parents, Leroy W. Titus (1884-1978) and Eva Beryl Andrews (1890-1968), the book presents a vast array of information, mostly in the form of lineages, interspersed with stories or extracts from secondary sources. What will be most frustrating to the seasoned genealogist is the lack of an easy-to-follow system of numbering individuals appearing in succeeding generations, a somewhat surprising omission in light of the numerous guides on the subject available today (the methods of numbering utilized in either the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* or *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* are considered "standard"). A quick scanning of much of the book after a close reading of the first twenty-or-so pages also confirmed this reviewer's suspicions that the book should have had a more careful editing while still in manuscript form. Beyond a general lack of consistency in both format and types of material presented, the volume suffers from a very large number of misspellings, and grammatical and typographical errors, which unfortunately detract from the work's intended purpose. As an example, many readers will immediately notice that page numbers, which follow the text by a few line spaces, vary in location on each page, depending on where the text ends.

This *Saga of Two North American Families*, a considerable effort on the part of its compiler, represents the raw material from which genealogies are sometimes written. While a good amount of data here may be of value to future genealogists, the problems inherent in this book's format and style will make it an unusually difficult book to use.

Randall H. Bennett

Randall H. Bennett, Society Curator of Collections, is the author of *Oxford County, Maine: A Guide to Its Historic Architecture*.

SOCIETY ASSEMBLING VITAL RECORDS FILES

As part of a continuing effort to enlarge its genealogical holdings, the Society has embarked on an ambitious vital records project. As part of the Franklin County Historic Resources Survey, the Society has been loaned microfilm copies of early Franklin County newspapers. While project director and Society curator of collections Randall H. Bennett has been busy collecting information which documents the historic resources of that nearby county area, Society staff members and interested volunteers have been equally busy recording vital records of all western Maine localities. At the present time, data from the years 1831 to 1873 has been assembled from careful readings of the SANDY RIVER YEOMAN, FRANKLIN REGISTER, FRANKLIN PATRIOT, and FRANKMINGTON CHRONICLE. In the future, more than a dozen additional papers will be read, including those currently appearing in Franklin County. A boon to genealogists, this vital records project will become an invaluable timesaver for those researching western Maine families. Inquiries about this project should be directed to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217.

CLOUGH GENEALOGY TO BE AVAILABLE AGAIN

The John Clough Genealogical Society, Inc. is reprinting the Clough genealogy. Anyone interested should direct inquiries to Mrs. Adaline Clough, RFD #2, Box 910, Bethel, ME 04217.

OUR READERS WRITE

From Lillian Fuller Rose, Portsmouth, NH:

I was most interested in the article on Mechanic Street. It was very nicely written. I might add that my parents lived in #10 about 1936-39 (John Fuller) at that time Eugene Norton lived in the larger part while my parents lived in that section prior to that time. In #11, John Fuller, Adney Gurney and the Chapin family lived in the three apartments in that house at one time.

I follow the activities of the Bethel Historical Society and feel it is a great organization. I am happy to be a member.

From Rev. Clifford W. Laws, Kittery Point:

Before I came to Bethel as Pastor of the West Parish Church, I was in a small way a part of Bethel's history. In 1927, as a kid of eighteen, I wandered into West Bethel to work in Morrill-Adams Mill and lived in an attic room over Douglas Cushing's General Store. Evenings were spent playing cards at Evander Whitman's variety store or walking the railroad tracks to Bethel to attend the movies in Odeon Hall, or attending the dances at the pavilion in Waterford and doing the "things" young people did nearly sixty years ago. Don't you think for a moment that I didn't have to speak to a few folk when I returned as a Minister, and say to them, "You keep your mouth shut and I won't tell about you!" It worked, and now it's all a part of the fond memories I have of Bethel!

From Daphne A. Chapman, Peabody, MA:

Some time ago in the COURIER there was a list of Bethel residents who served in the armed forces during World War II. I didn't see the name of my husband (Philip S. Chapman, Jr.), who served in the U.S. Navy. He was born in Bethel and graduated from Gould Academy in 1936. He attended Wentworth Institute in Boston from September 1939 to graduation in June 1941, after which he went to work for General Electric. He enlisted from and discharged to Bethel. He didn't change his legal residence until 1946. He died December 31, 1985 and is buried in Riverside Cemetery in Bethel. He always felt Bethel was "home".

From Alfred Howard, Augusta:

In the Spring 1987 issue of the COURIER, there was an article on the Davis family. The COURIER article contained two incorrect dates on page six. At the bottom of the left hand column, the date should be April 23, 1890. At the top of the right column, the date should be May 7, 1891.

From Isabel Tuell Coburn, New Harbor:

The story of the Androscoggin River bridge demolition in 1927 (Spring 1987 COURIER) is a classic example of the effect the "everybody knows" syndrome can have on history. Here are a few more.

"Everybody knew" that James Coburn's wife (or his first wife and the mother of his first six children) was Nancy Fortney, so that's what all the local history books say. But no record of such a Nancy could be located; only a chance finding of his marriage intentions with Sarah Moody, filed when he was eighteen and she was fifteen, and census records indicating that Sarah was still his wife sixty years later, explained why. However, no one is willing to correct the books, even as they are being republished!

"Everybody knew" what Grandpa Knight meant when he pointed to a low 13' x 8" stone wall out in the woods behind the ancestral farmhouse and said, "That's where Col. Westbrook is buried." But the children didn't dare ask who, when, why; fifty years later, when their curiosity was renewed, there was no one living who could tell them the circumstances surrounding this unusual, secret early 18th century internment of the man for whom the Portland suburb was named. (But they *did* find him there in 1976!)

"Everybody knew" I'm sure, that Lucy Roberts Harris was adopted, as stated in a recently found cryptic note written by her elderly granddaughter more than twenty years ago. But there's no one living now who can tell whether Roberts was her birth name or her adopted name, nor how she got from her Vermont birthplace to the New York town where she was married.

"Everybody knew" when widow Silence Benson remarried in 1802 that her first husband had died a few years earlier on a lone hunting trip in the woods near their Hebron home; so it will remain a mystery forever why Jephtha Benson had actually chosen to leave his wife and large family and turn up on the shores of Penobscot Bay a few years later, telling to the new family he sired there a richly fictitious story of his former life. Also a mystery is why Silence was buried alone, with Jephtha's name on her gravestone rather than that of her second husband.

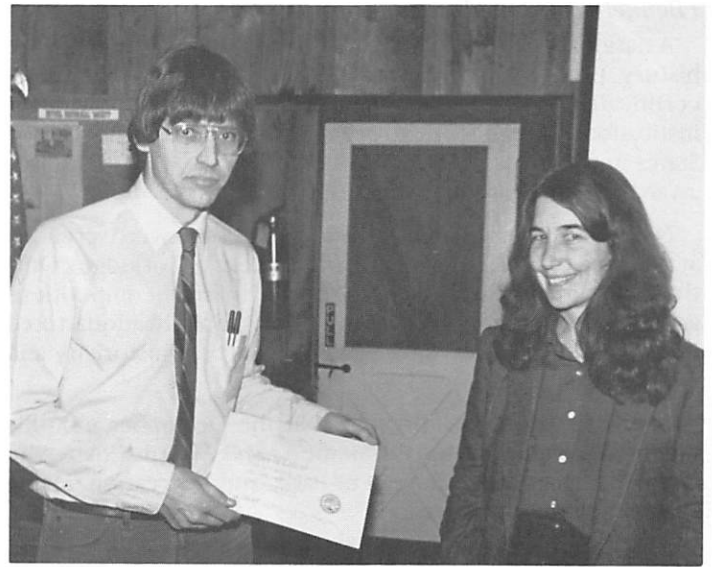
Since "everybody knew" the identity of the people and places portrayed on the glass negatives that filled two shoe boxes, no one ever bothered to caption them; and since they had no personal meaning for the photographer's grandson almost 100 years later, he deliberately destroyed them, despite being told they provided a priceless record of rural and small town life in 19th century Nebraska.

The "everybody knows" syndrome may affect history in either of two quite opposite ways: by contributing "preponderance of evidence" when its false assumptions are repeated often enough, or by leaving historical questions forever unanswered because nobody bothered to record the truth.

P.S. My father, born 103 years ago today (August 9, 1987), had the teenage responsibility of keeping the deck of the Androscoggin River bridge covered with snow, so sleds and eighs could traverse it smoothly.

GENEALOGICAL INQUIRY

Society Life Member Isabel Tuell Coburn is interested in learning if any reader can tell her if Addie Leslie Tuell (mentioned on page 756 of Lapham & Maxim's HISTORY OF PARIS, MAINE) is the same person as Eddie Leslie Tuell (mentioned in notes assembled by Society member Ruby Emery). She also would like to know more about Albert A. Tuell who is listed on page 401 of William B. Lapham's HISTORY OF BETHEL. Anyone able and willing to share information on these questions should write Mrs. Coburn, Route 2, Box 146, New Harbor, Maine 04554.



Society Curator of Collections Randall H. Bennett receives a Certificate of Commendation from Sheila McDonald, representing the American Association for State and Local History. The award was made at the Society's December meeting for Bennett's outstanding publications record in the field of state and local history. Photo courtesy of Donald S. Brown.

BENNETT RECEIVES AWARD FROM AASLH

Randall H. Bennett, Society Curator of Collections, was awarded a Certificate of Commendation from the American Association for State and Local History for publications in the field of state and local history. Bennett has published articles in DOWN EAST, MAINE LIFE, NEW HAMPSHIRE PROFILES and NEW ENGLAND GALAXY among others. He has edited and published three books: SKETCHES OF OXFORD COUNTY (1975), THE HISTORY OF RUMFORD, MAINE (1975), and SUNDAY RIVER SKETCHES: A NEW ENGLAND CHRONICLE (1977). His latest book, OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE: A GUIDE TO ITS HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE appeared earlier this year.

The AASLH conferred the award at its annual meeting in Raleigh, North Carolina, on October 5, 1987. The Association's awards program is the nation's most prestigious competition for local history achievement.

(continued on back page)

Join the Bethel Historical Society dedicated to preserving and interpreting the local past.

Membership in the Society entitles you to:

- | | |
|---|--|
| (1) free admission to the museum | (5) quarterly publication |
| (2) special discounts at museum store | (6) reduced course fees |
| (3) preferred rate for meeting room rental | (7) voting rights in the Society |
| (4) special library and archival privileges | (8) special invitations to Society occasions |

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..... Sustaining (Individual) \$5

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..... Senior (over 55 years) \$3

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..... Life over 55 years \$75.00 couple

..... Life under 55 years \$100.00 single

..... Life under 55 years \$150.00 couple

..... Individual preference (any amount over \$5)

..... Corporate \$50

(Bennett, continued from page 7)

A national selection committee, composed of leaders in the history profession, reviewed 119 nominations. Fifty nine certificates of commendation were awarded to individuals, institutions, and historical organizations across the United States and Canada. AASLH also conferred an Albert B. Corey award and an award of distinction.

Nominations originated at the local level and were screened at state and regional levels by a national network of judges. Only those nominations approved in the preliminary competitions are considered for national honors. The AASLH, headquartered in Nashville, TN, has given awards to local historians and historical agencies since 1944.

Bennett's award was presented at the December monthly meeting by Sheila McDonald, Maine AASLH Awards Chair, who is the historian of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation, Maine Department of Conservation.

SOCIETY RECEIVES

FRANKLIN COUNTY SURVEY GRANT

An intensive survey of historical resources in Franklin County is being conducted under the sponsorship of the Bethel Historical Society with funding from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission through a U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service Grant. Begun in July for a one year period, the survey is being directed by the Society's Curator of Collections, Randall H. Bennett, whose 600-page work *OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE: A GUIDE TO ITS HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE* was published earlier this year with funding by the Commission and the Society.

The Survey, which will utilize the Bethel Historical Society's extensive collections relating to the history of western Maine, will result in a published, illustrated inventory of Franklin County's historic resources, similar to that recently produced for Oxford County. As part of the survey process, Bennett has completed specially developed forms during on-site inspection of more than two hundred properties (as of this writing); photographs of each site or structure, also taken and developed into prints by the project director, have been assembled into files maintained in the Society's Broad Street headquarters. So far building and site survey forms have been completed, and photographs taken, for more historic structures in Phillips, Avon, Strong, Freeman, Weld, Carthage, and Chesterville, and for some of those in Kingfield, Farmington, and Jay.

The Bethel Historical Society
P.O. Box 12
Bethel, Maine 04217



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Lending support to the Survey's activities, the Mantor Library at the University of Maine at Farmington has loaned early Franklin County newspapers on microfilm, and a wealth of information useful in documenting the county's historic resources is being assembled. At the same time, Bethel Historical Society staff and local volunteers have begun the task of compiling all vital records relating to western Maine from these papers, the result of which will be a major addition to the Society's genealogical collections and provide an increased capability to aid researchers.

Project Director Bennett, in an effort to gather support for the Franklin County Survey, spoke to a large gathering at the Maine Genealogical Society's annual meeting, held in Farmington on September 19, 1987. He will present a similar program focused on Franklin County's rich historical background to the Wilton Historical Society in December and to the Weld Historical Society in August 1988. Anyone interested in participating in this most interesting study should contact the Project Director at the Society.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

OTIS BARTLETT, Berlin, NH, is retired and descended from the Bethel Bartletts. KATHLEEN S. BEAN, Woodstock, is retired. Her late husband was a nephew of Society founder Eva M. Bean. STEPHEN and LYNDA CHANDLER, Bethel, work for Gould Academy. He is a teacher of mathematics and she serves in the Admissions Office. Mrs. Chandler is also a member of the Society's Board of Trustees. FILLMORE and SHIRLEY CLOUGH, West Bethel, are retired and spend winters in Florida. SYLVIA ELLIS, Wellesley, MA, is a summer resident of Andover, ME. ROLAND and PHILIPPA GLINES, Bethel, live on the Northwest Bethel Road. RONALD and EUNICE KEDDY, Plainville, MA, are retired. JAMES KONKEL, Portland, is a 1981 graduate of Gould Academy. HUGH LYNCH, Newry, is retired. DOROTHY K. SMALL, Biddeford, is retired.

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